

State-Funded Program Educator Requirements Comparison with NAEYC and Head Start

Programs accepting Connecticut state funds (School Readiness, Child Day Care Contracts and/or State Head Start Supplement) are required to meet the Connecticut legislation for educator requirements. These state-funded programs are also required to hold NAEYC accreditation and/or Head Start approval. The chart below outlines the educator requirements for Connecticut, NAEYC and Head Start, as well as the expectations according to the timelines established by Connecticut legislation.

	CT State Legislation	NAEYC	Head Start
Current - July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015	Each state-funded program meets current legislation and OEC policy, as well as national approval system (NAEYC and/or Head Start)	<p>Program must meet candidacy requirements. To be accepted as a candidate for NAEYC Accreditation, Step 3: Candidacy, a program must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain good standing in its licensing or regulatory status within the last year or since its last inspection • Provide a description of the collaborative process used to complete its Candidacy Materials, which has actively engaged the program administrator, teaching staff, families, and the program's governing body (when applicable) • Believe that it can meet each of the 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and can document satisfactory performance on at least 80 percent of the NAEYC Accreditation Criteria for each standard • Demonstrate necessary early childhood, management and leadership expertise among members of its teaching and leadership staff by meeting the Candidacy Requirements for Educational Qualifications of Program Administrators and Teaching Staff <p>Program Goal 2010 – 2014: NAEYC criterion 6A05 establishes a program goal in each NAEYC Accredited sites of 100% of teachers hold a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) or equivalent*; at least 50% of</p>	<p>Current requirement is nationwide, not site specific: Progress toward every classroom having a teacher with an associate's or bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.</p> <p>By September 30, 2013, 50% of teachers across the nation must have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.</p> <p>Head Start expects each grantee to increase the numbers of teachers with a bachelor's degree.</p>

	CT State Legislation	NAEYC	Head Start
		<p>teachers hold a minimum of an associate's degree or equivalent*; at least 25% of teachers have a minimum of a bachelor's degree or equivalent*; and all must have or be enrolled in an associate's or bachelor's degree program (annual reports must show continuous progress).</p> <p>Criterion 6.A.05 is always assessed but is not a required criterion.</p> <p>Programs must meet and maintain Candidacy requirements throughout their NAEYC Accreditation term. If programs fail to meet Candidacy requirements, additional verification may be required by NAEYC.</p>	
July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020	50% of teachers at each site receiving state funding (School Readiness, Child Day Care Contracts and Head Start State Supplement) must have a bachelor's degree specific to early childhood and the remaining 50% of teachers must have an associate's degree specific to early childhood or meet the grandfathering clause.	<p>Program must meet candidacy requirements and continue to work on established goals as outlined below:</p> <p>Program Goal 2015- 2019: NAEYC criterion 6A05 establishes a program goal of 50% of teachers in an NAEYC Accredited site hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree* or equivalent, and all teachers hold a minimum of an associate's degree* or equivalent.</p> <p>*degrees should be in early childhood education, child development, elementary education or early childhood special education. See: http://www.naeyc.org/academy/degreeequivalents</p> <p>Criterion 6.A.05 is always assessed but is not a required criterion.</p>	
July 1, 2020 and after	100% of teachers at each site receiving state funding (School Readiness, Child Day Care Contracts and Head Start State Supplement) must have a bachelor's degree specific to early childhood or meet	<p>Program must meet candidacy requirements and continue to work on established goals as outlined below:</p> <p>Program Goal 2020: NAEYC criterion 6A05 establishes a program goal of 75% of teachers in an NAEYC Accredited site hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree* or</p>	

	CT State Legislation	NAEYC	Head Start
	the grandfathering clause.	<p>equivalent, and all teachers hold a minimum of an associate's degree or equivalent.</p> <p>*degrees should be in early childhood education, child development, elementary education or early childhood special education. See: http://www.naeyc.org/academy/degreeequivalents.</p> <p>Criterion 6.A.05 is always assessed but is not a required criterion.</p>	